

2-8-2001

The Bald Soprano (2001 program)

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Harding University Presents:

The Bald Soprano



Eugene Ionesco

Directed by: Jeff Sprull

**February 8-10, 2001
Harding University's
Little Theatre**

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The Bald Soprano

Eugene Ionesco

Directed by: Jeff Spruill

February 8-10, 2001

The Cast:

Mr. Smith:	Sam Jones
Mrs. Smith:	Heidi Cox*#
Mr. Martin:	Chris Akers
Mrs. Martin:	Cory Edwards*
Mary (the maid)	Bethany Banister*#
Fire Chief	Todd Ramsey

* member: Campus Players

member: Alpha Psi Omega

The Scene:~

A middle-class English interior, with English chairs. An English evening. Mr. Smith, an Englishman, seated in his English chair and wearing English slippers, is smoking his English pipe and reading an English newspaper, near an English fire. He is wearing English spectacles and a small gray English mustache. Beside him, in another English chair, Mrs. Smith, an English woman, is darning some English socks. A long moment of English silence. The English clock strikes 17 English strokes.

~ The director has taken artistic license in regard to the scene.

The Company:

Director:	Jeff Spruill * #
Assistant Director:	Jena Fritz
Production assistant:	Ryan Crisler *
Set Design by:	Jeff Spruill * #
Lighting Design:	Chris Rich * #
Light Board Operator:	Trey Laminack
Technician:	Amanda Ellis
Makeup:	Katie Whampler *
House Management:	Drew Dasher
	Nathan Smith * #
	Gene Bates
Scenic Artist:	Charissa Whaley
Graphic Designer:	Brad Blackman
Film Advertisement:	Joe Wells

The Director wishes to thank:

Robin Miller*# and Morris Ellis*# for the guidance
Steve*# and Dotty Frye my mentors in life and profession
Brenda Seawel "she who does everything"
Terrie Smith for not firing me...
My Family for sacrificing yourselves for me
Charissa for making me be what I want to be
My Savior without whom this would not have happened.



Director's Notes: A bone to chew on...

"The theatre of the absurd did not seek the unreal for it's own sake. It used the unreal to make certain explorations because it sensed the absences of truth in our everyday exchanges..."

-Peter Brooke

"The Bald Soprano" is one of the most indispensable pieces of the theatre of the absurd. The Observer called it "explosively, liberatingly funny." Eugene Ionesco has been called the spiritual godfather of Monty Python and the like. However, it should be remembered that Ionesco didn't write simply for comic affect. Ionesco wrote in order to expose certain flaws in humankind. "The Bald Soprano" points to the meaninglessness in human interaction. Man is so involved in society and her rules that we have abandoned truth. The proper response to, "How are you?" is supposed to be, "fine." Because we must follow man made rules, we destroy God made truths and blessed relationships. However, Ionesco does not lament, but rather, chooses to laugh, by showing us hilarious caricatures so ridiculous that their unwillingness to communicate truthfully eventually destroys their ability to communicate at all. "The Bald Soprano" is a comedy, meant to be laughed at, but after the laughter has subsided, we invite you to look back at Ionesco's work and see if, through its brilliant wit, hilarious raving and seeming absurdity, it can also teach a lesson. As Ionesco himself said, *"Above all, I should like this to be the case. I am always afraid that a work may be only what we think it is, or rather what we want to think it is. In this case the work would be meaningless. My work would be meaningless."*

-Jeff Spruill